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SOURCE Svenska Dagbladet, No 213, 1949.

Several months ago the first rumors of a new uranium deposit in the Estonian SSR were already circulating. Now a reliable source has provided more detailed information which originally came from an Estonian mining engineer in Dorpat. According to this information, about a year ago uranium-bearing-pitchblende was discovered in the vicinity of the Estonian oil wells at Jõhvi.

For 8 months now the Russians have been busy mining this strategic raw material. Its quality is said to be pretty high. As far as is known, the first deposit yields 1/24 and the later ones, 1/26. (These figures express the uranium content or the radioactivity of the ore.) The uranium is mined at a depth of 18 meters.

The deposits are located between Jõhvi and Kohtla-Järve in the vicinity of a small town. Three thousand reliable Russians and Estonians, the latter members of the Estonian Communist Party, are engaged in mining operations. The mine area is surrounded by a high wooden fence and is heavily guarded. The mined material is transported in closed vehicles under Russian guard toward Leningrad.

Not far from there, in Ahtme, construction work has begun on a large power plant, which will provide Estonia and the area toward Leningrad with electric power. The waste products obtained in the extraction of oil are to be used for firing the boilers of the steam power plant.

The installation is designed to supplement the electric power plant at Kohtla-Järve, which so far has supplied the whole area, but which has not been able to satisfy power requirements. The Germans began work on the power plant in 1942, and the Russians took up the project again in 1945. The first turbine will be placed in operation in October 1949. Installation of a total of 12 turbines, to be completed in 1950, has been planned. The Estland Stroj Company of Kohtla-Järve is doing the construction work. The labor force numbers about 400 persons.

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